

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Commission**

ITEM

17

INFORMATION

TOPIC

The draft 2006 state list of CWA Section 303(d) impaired waters

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires that each state prepare, every two years, a list of its waters that do not fully meet state water quality standards. Iowa's 2006 draft of impaired waters is part of Iowa's "integrated report." According to U.S. EPA guidance, states should provide a single water quality monitoring and assessment report—the Integrated Report—that combines the water quality reporting requirements of Section 305(b), the impaired waters listing requirements of Section 303(d), and the lakes reporting requirements of Section 314 of the Clean Water Act. Integrated reports are to be composed of five categories that are designed to give the public and other stakeholders a comprehensive summary of the water quality status in the state. Category 5 of the Integrated Report is the state's Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Waters in Category 5 must be prioritized for preparation of a total maximum daily load (TMDL) to determine the load of pollutants that a water can receive and still meet state water quality standards.

Iowa's draft 2006 list of impaired waters contains 274 waterbodies. The draft list is a subset of the approximately 960 Iowa waterbodies or waterbody segments (streams, rivers, lakes, and wetlands) assessed for support of state water quality standards by IDNR staff for the 2006 assessment listing cycle. For comparison, Iowa's final 2004 list of impaired waters contained 225 waterbodies. The draft 2006 list will be available for public notice for a period of 45 days from May 1 through June 15, 2007. Following the close of the public comment period, a responsiveness summary of comments received will be prepared, changes in the list will be made based on public comments, and IDNR will submit the revised draft to U.S. EPA Region 7 for review, approval, and/or disapproval.

John Olson, Environmental Specialist Senior
Watershed Monitoring & Assessment Section,
Iowa Geological Survey and Land Quality Bureau,
Environmental Services Division

April 9, 2007